

TURKEY: Monthly “301” Action – 19 January 2008

Action Marking the First Anniversary of the Murder of Hrant Dink

“For Hrant, For Justice”

Saturday 19 January marks the first anniversary of the murder of Hrant Dink in Istanbul. International PEN is supporting the “Hrant İçin, Adalet İçin” (For Hrant, For Justice) campaign being run by a consortium of Turkish organisations who are staging events in Istanbul in commemoration of Hrant Dink. Posters and banners have been produced for the events with slogans including “For Hrant, For Justice” and “What Happened on 19 January?”.

A website has been launched in Turkish and English which gives information on the events being staged in Turkey and abroad. For details of the commemorations and to download posters, go to the website:

www.hranticinadaleticin.com/en/invite.html

The key event will be held outside the Istanbul office of the magazine *Agos* of which Hrant Dink was editor and where he was shot dead. It will be held at 3pm, the hour of his death, on 19 January. There will also be other events including arts and cultural shows. Turkish PEN will be participating and International PEN’s International Secretary Eugene Schoulgin, WiPC Programme Director Sara Whyatt, and English PEN member, writer journalist, academic and translator, Maureen Freely will also be present.

Other News

The Turkish government is due to present proposed changes to Article 301 of the Turkish PEN code in the coming days. The

calls for repeal have not been met, and the focus will be on the terms including “insult to Turkishness” which is likely to be changed to “denigrating the Turkish Nation”. There is also the possibility that penalties under the law are to be reduced. For more on this and other free expression issues got to the [Bianet website](#)

Eugene Schoulgin, Sara Whyatt and Maureen Freely will take the opportunity of being present in Turkey to learn more about the proposed changes, meet with writers who are on trial or under threat, and to explore other Turkish legislation under which writers and journalists are tried and conviction in violation of their right to freedom of expression.